

Patent Application No. 09/669,354
Attorney Docket No. 81751.0009

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 16-18 remain in this application. Claim 18 has been amended. Claims 5-15 have been canceled without prejudice. Reconsideration and entrance of the amendment in the application are respectfully requested.

In the Advisory Action mailed August 9, 2004, the Office indicated claims 1-4 and 16-18 are allowed. In that same Action, claims 5-15 stood rejected. In response, Applicant has cancelled claims 5-15 without prejudice. Claim 18, which depended from claim 7, has been re-written in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

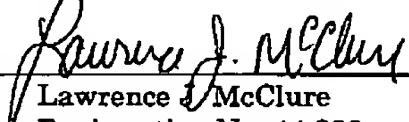
If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (213) 337-6809 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1814.

Respectfully submitted,

HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

Date: August 18, 2004

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